

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8676

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD AFSP UR

SUBJ: RECONFIGURATION OF CHANCERY SEVENTH AND
EIGHTH FLOORS

REF: STATE 88659

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY RESIDENT SEABEE TEAM HAS COMPLETED DETAILED ESTIMATE ON MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE RECONFIGURATION OF THE CHANCERY SEVENTH AND EIGHTH FLOORS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE OFFICES FOR THE POLITICAL, SCIENCE, ECONOMIC, PRESS AND CULTURAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SECTIONS. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$51,000. A TEAM OF TEN SEABEES WILL BE NEEDED FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS COMPLETED A DETAILED SURVEY OF MATERIEL NEEDED TO CONVERT THE CHANCERY SEVENTH FLOOR FROM ITS PRESENT CONFIGURATION (TWO REPRESENTATIONAL APARTMENTS) TO OFFICE SPACE FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION AND A CONFERENCE ROOM; AND TO RECONFIGURE THE CHANCERY EITGHTH FLOOR TO PROVIDE MORE NEARLY ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE EMBASSY'S OTHER SECURE-SPACE OFFICES. THE MATERIAL BREAKDOWN IN MAIN CATEGORIES AND COSTS (TRANSPORTATION TO MOSCOW INCLUDED) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. FURRING LUMBER	\$ 8,200
B. PANELING	13,320
C. PREFAB DOORS	3,750
D. SUSPENDED CEILING AND	

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LIGHT FIXTURES	10,500
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E. CARPETING	4,000	
F. HARDWOOD TRIM	2,800	
G. ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT		2,000
H. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS (NAILS, BRICK, WIRING, SWITCHES, DOOR HARDWARE, ETC.)	6,095	
TOTAL	\$50,665	

3. EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE ON SEABEE TIME NECESSARY CALLS FOR A TEN-MAN SEABEE TEAM TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS ON THE PROJECT. THIS ESTIMATE IS A ROUGH ONE, HOWEVER, AND A SEABEE BUILDER WITH EXPERIENCE ON LARGE PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE (NEITHER OF THE EMBASSY'S RESIDENT SEABEES IS A BUILDER) COULD PERHAPS DEVELOP A MORE ACCURATE ONE.

4. EMBASSY'S PRICING OF MATERIALS IN THE ESTIMATE CALLS FOR MIDDLE GRADE CARPETING AND PANELING.

5. THIS ESTIMATE CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDS THE ESTIMATE OF \$15,000 GIVEN FOR MATERIALS IN EMBASSY'S FIELD BUDGET ESTIMATE OF OCTOBER 28, 1973 (EMBASSY'S A-560). DIFFERENCE IS EXPLAINED BY CHANGING EMBASSY NEEDS AND CHANGING APPROACH TO PROJECT AS DICTATED BY THOSE NEEDS. EARLIER ESTIMATE WAS BASED ON MINIMUM WORK NEEDED TO MAKE SEVENTH FLOOR APARTMENTS ACCEPTABLE AS OFFICE SPACE AND MINIMUM WORK ON EIGHTH FLOOR. NEW ESTIMATE IS DICTATED BY NEED TO UTILIZE TO MAXIMUM DEGREE POSSIBLE ALL AVAILABLE SPACE ON SEVENTH AND EIGHTH FLOORS, WITH CONSEQUENT NEED FOR CONSIDERABLY MORE DEMOLITION AND NEW PARTITION BUILDING. ADDITIONALLY, PREVIOUS ESTIMATE DID NOT CALL FOR INSTALLATION OF SUSPENDED CEILINGS. EMBASSY NOW CONSIDERS SUCH CEILINGS VERY DESIRABLE TO IMPROVE LIGHTING IN OFFICE AREAS.

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